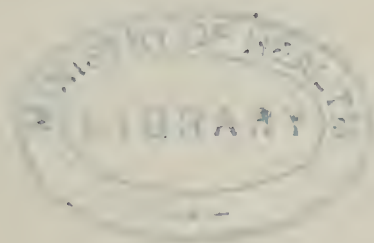
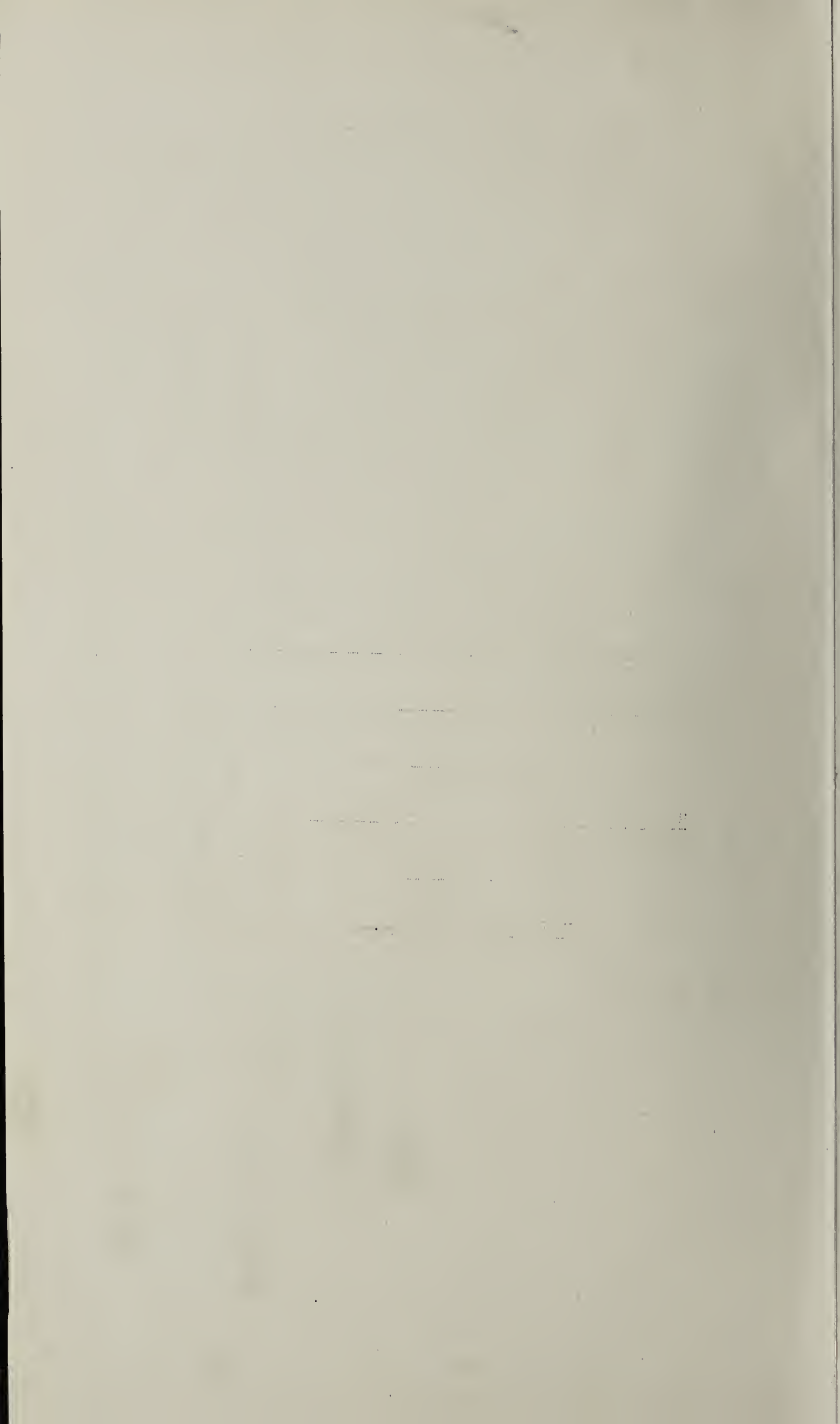


MARCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
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ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND THE  
SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR THE  
YEAR 1951.





THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year, 1951.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you  
my report for the year 1951.

A report from the Sanitary Inspector  
is also included.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

S. GOVERNOR.

Medical Officer of Health.

(i) Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health - S. Governor, M.B., B.Ch.,  
Sanitary Inspector - H. Burton, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

(ii) General Statistics

Area in acres. . . . .	19,777
Population (Registrar-General's estimate for 1951)	12,970
Number of inhabited houses . . . . .	3,964
Rateable Value . . . . .	£51,519
Amount represented by 1d rate (revised estimate 1951/52) . . . . .	£204. 19s. 9d.

The estimated population shows a decrease  
of 140 on the 1950 figure.

(iii) Vital Statistics

Table I - Live Births

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	83	81	164
Illegitimate	-	3	3
	83	84	167

The birth rate is 12.6 per 1,000 population and is slightly  
below the birth rate for England and Wales which is 15.5.  
In 1950 the birth rate in the district was 16.32 compared  
with 15.8 for England and Wales.

Table II - Still Births

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	4	-	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<hr/> 4	<hr/> -	<hr/> 4

The rate for still-births is 0.30 per 1,000 compared with 0.36 for England and Wales.

Table III - Infantile Mortality

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 4

The infantile mortality rate is 23.9 per 1,000 live births compared with 29.6 for England and Wales. In 1950 the local figure was 9.35 per 1,000 compared with 29.8 for England and Wales.

The Causes of infantile deaths were as follows:

Whooping Cough	1
Congenital Heart	1
Misadventure	1
Haemorrhage	1
	<hr/> 4

No deaths from Infantile Diarrhoea were notified during 1951. The Death rate for Infantile Diarrhoea for England and Wales was 1.4 per 1,000 live births.

Table IV - Deaths in the Area and Causes

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Whooping Cough . . . . .	0	1	1
Neoplasm, Stomach. . . . .	1	5	6
Neoplasm Lung, brochus . . . . .	4	0	4
Neoplasm Breast . . . . .	0	1	1
Neoplasm Uterus . . . . .	0	3	3
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasm . . . . .	11	3	14
Leukaemia. . . . .	1	0	1
Diabetes . . . . .	1	0	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system . . . . .	10	8	18
Coronary disease, angina . . . . .	13	2	15
Hypertension with heart disease . . . . .	2	2	4
Other heart diseases . . . . .	10	21	31
Other circulatory diseases . . . . .	2	1	3
Influenza. . . . .	1	0	1
Pneumonia. . . . .	2	1	3
Bronchitis . . . . .	4	0	4
Other diseases of respiratory system . . . . .	1	0	1
Nephritis and nephrosis . . . . .	3	0	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate . . . . .	1	0	1
Congenital malformations . . . . .	0	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases . . . . .	4	12	16
Motor Vehicle accidents . . . . .	2	0	2
All other accidents . . . . .	1	1	2
Suicide . . . . .	1	1	2
	<hr/> 75	<hr/> 64	<hr/> 139



The death rate in March this year is 10.7 per 1,000 population compared with 12.5 for England and Wales. Last year's figures were 11.14 compared with 11.6 for England and Wales.

The following table gives the percentages of deaths in the principal age groups.

Under 1 year	2.88
1 - 5 years	.72
6 - 15 years	.72
16 - 65 years	29.49
66 and over	66.19
	<hr/> 100.00% <hr/>

(iv) Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

Infectious Diseases Notified

Typhoid	1
Whooping Cough	2
Measles	1
Erysipelas	1
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	13
non - Pulmonary	2
	<hr/> 20 <hr/>

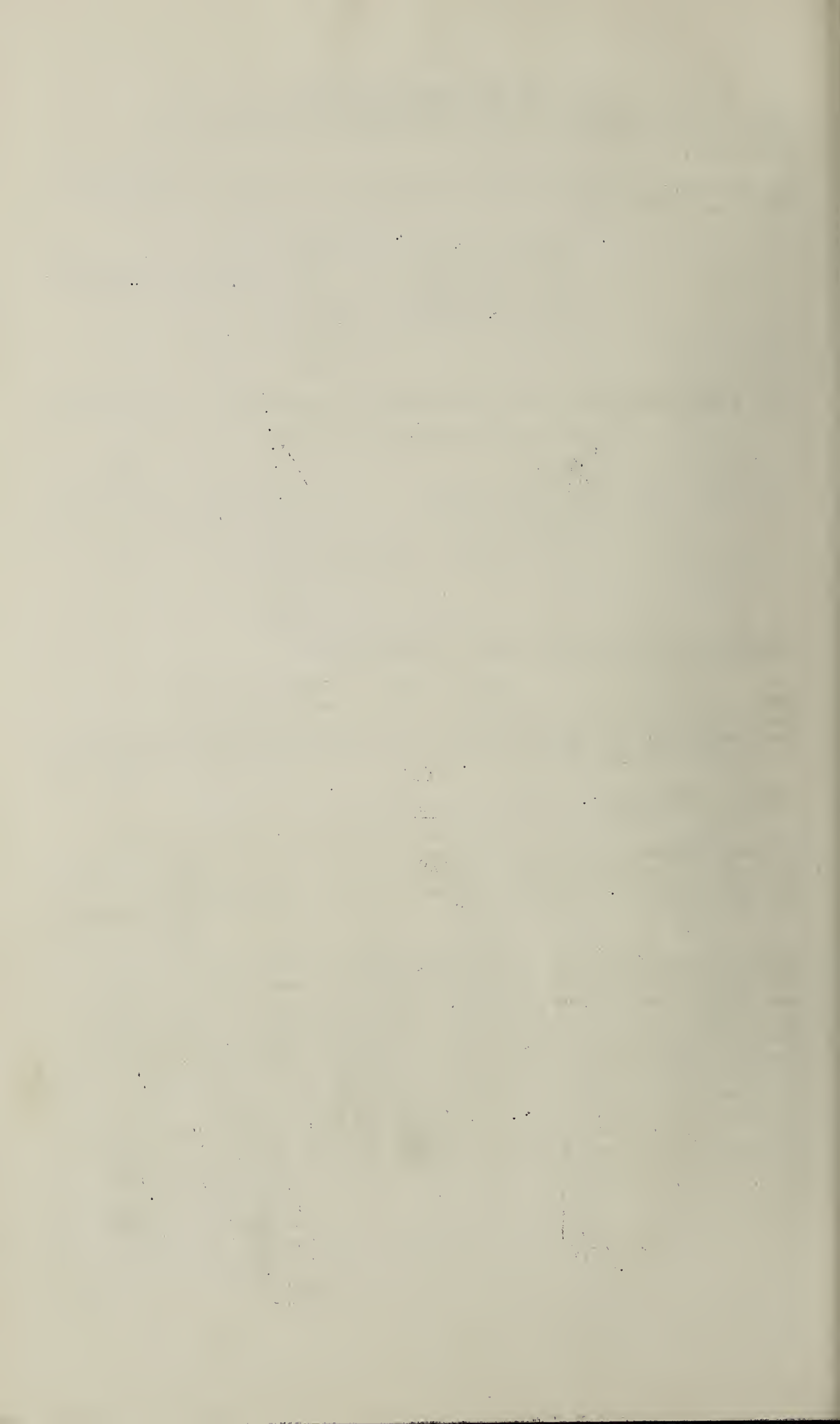
National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47.

During 1951 no action was taken under the above Act. One female person aged 83 who was removed during 1950, volunteered to remain in Hospital at the termination of the Court Order and the person was still in Hospital at the end of 1951.

Typhoid "Carriers".

Since the outbreak of Typhoid Fever in 1948, there is still one "carrier" living in an isolated part of the district. Samples of Faeces are taken weekly and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge. The sanitation at the cottage is subject to strict supervision.

During October notification was received that a patient admitted to Hospital was suffering from Typhoid Fever and investigations were immediately carried out at the home of the patient. Samples of urine and faeces were taken from all contacts and two "carriers" were discovered. One "carrier" was prohibited under the Public Health (Infectious Disease) Regulations, 1927, from working in any occupation connected with the preparation or handling of food or drink for human consumption, and has since undergone a successful operation enabling the above prohibition to be removed. The other "carrier", an elderly housewife, is still under observation. The patient, who was first notified, has been treated successfully and has fully recovered.



SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1951.

The following are details of visits and inspections carried out in 1951.

The following tables show defects found and remedied during the year by action under the Public Health and Housing Acts:-

	<u>Defects</u> <u>Found</u>	<u>Defects</u> <u>Remedied</u>	<u>Outstanding at</u> <u>the end of 1951</u>
<u>Drains.</u>			
Defective Sink Waste Pipe. . . .	1		1
Choked Drains. . . . .	8	8	
Defective drains . . . . .	2	2	
Cesspools, Defective construction.	1	1	
Inspection Covers. . . . .	1	1	
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>			
Defective closets, structure . . .	5	4	1
Defective sanitary pails . . . .	1	1	
Insufficient . . . . .	2	2	
Defective Pipes . . . . .	2	2	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
C/fd.	23	21	2



	<u>Defects Found</u>	<u>Defects Remedied</u>	<u>Outstanding at the end of 1951</u>
B/fd.	23	21	2

### Verminous Infestations.

Rats and Mice	19	19	
Vermin and Filthy premises	5	5	

### Housing Defects.

Dilapidated Outbuildings.	4	2	2
Defective Hot Water System	1	1	
roofs	20	15	5
eavesgutters	2	2	
plasterwork	7	6	1
washing accommodation	3	1	2
doors and frames	4	4	
windows and woodwork	3	3	
stoves and fireplaces	8	7	1
floors.	4	4	
Insufficient or defective refuse accommodation	6	5	1
Dampness.	3	2	1
Burst Pipes	1	1	
	113	98	15

### HOUSING.

During the year 41 houses were completed by the Council and 4 private houses under licences granted by the Council. Ten licences were issued during the year for the erection of private houses, nine being for owner occupation and one for letting. In addition one licence was issued outside the Council's "ceiling" for the erection of a flat over a garage. This was completed during the year.

Eight building licences were issued for housing work during the year to the value of two thousand and thirty seven pounds.

Two houses were reported to the Council under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. In one case the tenants were rehoused and an undertaking was given by the owner not to re-let the property. In the other case an undertaking was accepted for repairs to be carried out and these were completed before the end of the year.

Two Statutory Notices were served under the Public Health Act, 1936, the work required being carried out in each case.

Again I would like to express my appreciation to the Housing Committee for their continued interest in the lists, which I submit, drawing their attention to families in urgent need of rehousing. The courage, fortitude and patience with which most of these families face their problems is really commendable and when confronted with the conditions under which these families are living one cannot help a feeling of admiration for them.



## DRAINAGE.

Here mention must be made of the commencement of the new sewerage scheme and in spite of the numerous difficulties which are being experienced its completion is eagerly awaited. The question of conversion of pail closets and vaults will require serious consideration in the not too distant future and it is tentatively hoped that the greatest possible advantage will be taken to effect these conversions when the sewerage scheme is completed.

## WATER SUPPLY.

There has been no change in the circumstances of the district during the year. The following is the information requested by the Ministry.

- 1) Whether the water supply of the area and of its parts has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.- Yes.
- 2) Where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations have been made of the water, and the results of any analysis.- No official samples have been taken on behalf of the Council, the water is known to be examined at regular intervals on behalf of the Water Board.
- 3) The position as to the contamination by lead.- The water is hard and has no plumbo - solvent action.
- 4) Action as to contamination.- There has been no evidence of contamination during the year.
- 5) Particulars of the proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of population supplied from the public water mains.- (a) Direct to houses 85%. (b) By means of stand pipes 10%.

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

The number of animals killed during the year at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouses in the town was as follows:- 154 Cows; 830 Other Bovines; 219 Calves; 1,522 Sheep; 1,331 Pigs; 180 Goats; Total 4,236. This is an increase of 868 on the figure for 1950 when the corresponding total was 3,368.

Condemnations during the year included the following whole carcasses:- 13 Cows; 11 Other Bovines; 16 Calves; 5 Sheep; 62 Pigs; Total 107, which, together with a quantity of offal and parts of carcasses brings the total weight of meat and offal condemned up to 17 tons 11 cwts., 2 qrs. 1 st 2½ lbs. This is a marked increase since last year when the corresponding total was 10 tons 18 cwts., 2 qrs. 6 lbs.

# Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	830	154	219	1,522	1,331
Number Inspected	830	154	219	1,522	1,331
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u> Whole carcasses condemned	4	4	16	5	62
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	295	34	2	57	150
Percentage of the Number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	36.02	24.67	8.21	4.07	15.92
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u> Whole carcasses condemned	7	9	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	89	32	-	-	32
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	11.56	26.62	-	-	2.40

I would at this stage draw attention to the marked increase in the total number of animals slaughtered during the past three years, the respective figures being as follows:- 1948:- 2,663. 1949:- 2,783. 1950:- 3,368. The increase in the quantity of meat and offal condemned is accounted for to a large degree by the increase in the number of animals slaughtered. It has, of course, necessitated many more evening inspections but this is unavoidable if 100% meat inspection is to be carried out. My thanks are due to the Slaughterhouse Manager and Staff for their assistance during the year.

During May, Swine Fever was discovered in a carcase at the Slaughterhouse and from then until November, twenty three carcasses and organs were condemned for this disease. Some animals were slaughtered on farms and numerous visits were paid in this respect.

The Slaughterhouse at City Road has not been used as regularly as in the past and in consequence few complaints have been received.

Nine cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* were discovered during the year, in all cases the cysts being located in the external masseter muscles. The carcasses and organs were then dealt with in accordance with instructions issued by the Ministry of Food.



Ministry of Health Circular 42/51 requires particulars of the action taken with regard to food shops, stalls and vehicles and places where food is prepared. Visits to food shops and stalls are shown in the table on page 5.

Byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, were approved and came into operation on the 23rd July, 1951. Some 165 notices were sent drawing the attention of the respective occupiers to the adoption of the Byelaws and I feel that detailed information concerning their execution and enforcement can be best given in the next annual report.

The Ministry request information regarding the number of cases of food poisoning during the year - no cases were notified in this area during 1951.

#### OTHER FOODS.

Many inspections were made during the year of stocks of other food stuffs and the following were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

(i)	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>Weight lbs. ozs.</u>	
	Bloaters	70	
	Sultanas	57	8
	Chitterlings	44	
	Butter	36	
	Herrings	28	
	Flaps	14	
	Chocolate	7	
	Bacon	4	
	Pork Pies	3	
		<hr/>	
		263	8
		<hr/>	

(ii)	<u>Tinned Goods.</u>	<u>No. of Tins.</u>	<u>Weight lbs. ozs.</u>	
	Milk	173	191	
	Fruit	63	63	1½
	Tomatoes	16	35	1
	Mincemeat	6	17	6
	Coffee	25	6	4
	Peas	3	4	3
	Soup	4	3	9
	Beans	3	3	
	Jam	2	2	6½
	Tomato Juice	1	1	9
	Kit-E-Kat	2	1	3
	Christmas Pudding	1	1	
	Spaghetti	1	1	
	Lobster	1		3½
		<hr/>	<hr/>	
		301	330	14½

45 tins of Ham weighing 683 lbs. were also condemned - the Ministry of Food being informed as requested.

All the unsound food was voluntarily surrendered and in no case was seizure under the Food and Drugs Act, required.

Under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949, the Council issued five Dealer's licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk, nine Dealer's licences for Pasteurised Milk, three Dealer's licences for Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) and one Supplementary Licence for Sterilised Milk.

The following samples were taken giving the results shown:-

Pasteurised Milk

No. of samples taken.	Satisfied Methylene Blue Test	Failed Test
6	6	0

Tuberculin Tested

No. of samples taken.	Satisfied Methylene Blue Test	Failed Test
4	3	1

One sample of Sterilised Milk was taken and this satisfied the Turbidity Test.

Four samples of milk were taken for biological examination for the detection of tubercle bacilli. There was no evidence of Tuberculosis on post mortem examination of any of the inoculated guinea pigs.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the County Council are also known to take samples.

ICE CREAM - BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Forty one samples of ice cream were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge. The provisional grading of samples was as follows:

Grade 1.	Grade 2.	Grade 3.	Grade 4.	Total
35	4	2	-	41

It will be observed that 85.3% of these samples were classified Grade 1 and I think this can be considered most satisfactory. So also can the fact that no samples were found to fall into Grade 4. At the end of the year 31 shops were registered for the sale of ice cream. There is one manufacturer in the area.



## RATS AND MICE

Complaints were dealt with routinely and the tin dumps and sewers treated regularly. Infestation during 1951 was found to be slight; partial "takes" were recorded in the sewer treatment but no bodies were recovered.

The Agriculture Executive Committee have many contracts for farms in the area and notify any changes in their lists.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

At the end of the year 27 licences had been issued for moveable dwellings as compared with eight for the year previous. This increase, caused no doubt to some extent by the housing shortage, shows the determination of the persons concerned to overcome their difficulties if only temporarily.

## FACTORIES ACT.

There are 46 factories on the Council register, and 21 visits were paid resulting in 6 nuisances being found. These nuisances were remedied by the end of the year, two of them having been notified by H.M. Inspector. Form 572 has been completed and forwarded, as requested, in advance of this report.

## TABLE OF NOTICES SERVED DURING 1951.

	<u>Served during</u> <u>1951</u>	<u>Complied with</u> <u>by 31.12.51.</u>
Public Health and Housing Acts.		
Verbal	40	40
Letter	49	41
Statutory	2	2
Food and Drugs Act, 1938.		
Verbal	34	34
Letter	2	2
Factories Act, 1937		
Verbal	4	4
Letter	2	2
Shops Act, 1950.		
Letter	5	4
	<hr/> 138	<hr/> 129

In conclusion, I should like to take the opportunity of thanking the members of the Council, and my colleagues on the staff for their helpful co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

H. BURTON.

20th August, 1952.

Sanitary Inspector.

